

Kansas Pandemic Influenza Symposiums Set for May

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Adjutant General's Department are hosting a series of symposiums to address pandemic influenza preparedness. Each symposium will focus on particular areas of society, including government, education, business, faith and community-based organizations, agriculture and healthcare.

"These meetings will provide important information about the state's pandemic influenza plans and what everyone can do to protect themselves, their families, and their community during a pandemic," stated Dr. Howard Rodenberg, director of the KDHE Division of Health. "Every part of our society has a role to play in preparing for a possible pandemic, and each of us can take steps to prevent getting and spreading flu."

"Up to 30 percent of the work force could be out of work at one time so state agencies and businesses need to plan for continuity of operations including identification of essential services and essential staff," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general and director of Kansas Emergency Management and Homeland Security. "These symposiums are a great opportunity for everyone to learn more from the experts to be better prepared."

The symposiums are designed to provide preparedness information unique to each particular sector. Those people interested in obtaining information related to the particular subject areas indicated below are invited to attend. Symposiums targeted to assist industry, small and medium-sized businesses, and schools will be scheduled for later in the summer.

To register or for further information, contact Sharon Wenger at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at 785/296-7032, swenger@kdhe.state.ks.us, or register at KS TRAIN (<http://ks.train.org>)

- **Avian Flu in Domestic Fowl/Game Birds - Great Bend:** Tuesday, May 9, 8:30 -11:30 a.m., Highland Hotel and Convention Center, 3017 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530
- **Faith-Based & Community/Advocacy Organizations - Topeka:** Monday, May 15, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Ramada Inn (Grand Ballroom), 420 East 6th/I-70, Topeka, KS 66607
- **Government/Public Safety - Topeka:** Monday, May 15, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., Ramada Inn (Grand Ballroom), 420 East 6th/I-70, Topeka, KS 66607
- **Healthcare - Salina:** Monday, May 22, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure Center, 625 N. Hedville Road, Salina, KS 67401